

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

Hearing Officer: Josh Beuth, Wildlife Biologist
RIDEM Staff Present: Gary Powers, DEM Legal
Larry Mouradjian, Associate Director, DEM
Dylan Ferreira, DEM F&W Student Researcher

The public hearing for the 2015 - 2016 Falconry Regulations, 2015 - 2016 Hunting Regulations for the Waterfowl Season was held on August 24, 2015 at 7:00PM at the North Kingstown Community Center. Twenty (20) people from the public attended the hearing.

The hearing was called to order at 7:37 PM by the Hearing Officer, Josh Beuth.

J. Beuth – Hearing Officer, (JB): The hearing began with directions on how the hearing would be conducted and encouraged participants to sign up for testimony. JB introduced himself as Wildlife Biologist for the Division of Fish and Wildlife and announced he was there to officiate on behalf of Janet Coit, Director of DEM. He introduced staff, listed above. The first set concerns Falconry Season Regulations and it was being conducted under the authority of Title 20-1-4, 20-1-12, 20-1-13 and 42-17.1, 42-17.6 of the RI General Laws, pursuant to the procedural requirements of Chapter 42-35, “Administrative Procedures” of the General Laws of Rhode Island 1956, as amended. The second set concerns Waterfowl Hunting Rules and Regulations and it was being conducted under the authority of Title 20-1-4, 20-1-12, 20-1-35, 20-2-37, and 42-17.2 of the RI General Laws, pursuant to the procedural requirements of Chapter 42-35, “Administrative Procedures” of the General Laws of Rhode Island 1956, as amended.

Further, for each of these regulatory proceedings, pursuant to the requirements of Section 42-35-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, DEM has made the following determinations: DEM has complied with the requirements of Section 42-35-3.3 of the Rhode Island General Laws; the DEM has provided prior notice to the Governors Office and the EDC of the proposed promulgation of these rule and regulations and neither has notified DEM that they may have a significant adverse economic impact on small businesses. Despite the above, DEM specifically requests comments on the proposals as to how the proposed regulations can be changed so that any adverse economic impact(s) can be minimized or eliminated.

The purpose of this hearing is to afford interested persons an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments orally and/or in writing concerning each of the proposed Rules and Regulations. This hearing is not intended as a means of providing a forum for discussing, debating, arguing, or otherwise having a dialogue at this time with the members of the Division. This evening following the close of the formal public hearing, there will be an opportunity for a short and informal question and answer period.

The procedure for the public comment hearing is as follows:

1. Person who wish to speak will register at the table at the rear of the auditorium
2. Speakers will be called in the order of registration. Five (5) minutes was allowed for a presentation unless the number of speakers allowed for additional time. When your name is called come to the front of the room and identify yourself by name and

affiliation, if any. I would add any time you speak you should identify yourself by name for the purpose of the recording.

3. Make your presentation and then provide a written copy of your statement for the written record if one is available.
4. After all persons wishing to speak have had the opportunity to comment, the hearing will be closed.

After the record had been closed the Department has three (3) options:

1. File the rules and regulations with the Secretary of State as is;
2. File the rules and regulations with minor changes;
3. Make additional amendments to the rules and regulations and hold a new public hearing.

If filed, the amended rules and regulations become effective twenty (20) days after filing and have the effect of law.

The Public Hearing on Falconry Rules and Regulations is now open at 7:41pm.

JB stated that there were no registered speaks and addressed the public to see if there were any interested speakers at this time. No one from the public requested to speak.

Since there are no other comments at this time, and since all interested parties have been heard, we will now enumerate all exhibits and received comments for the public record.

Exhibit # 1 is the "Affidavit of Posting" of the public notice of this hearing a public notice of this hearing was posted on the Secretary of State and DEM computer websites on July 30, 2014.

Exhibit # 2 is a copy of the draft regulations as posted on the DEM website on July 30, 2014.

Public hearing on the Falconry Rules and Regulations closed at 7:42pm.

The Public Hearing on Waterfowl Rules and Regulations is now open at 7:43pm.

JB advised that the Waterfowl Rules and Regulations are subject to Federal Changes. **JB** advised that there are changes to the regulations that are not on the posted copies that were posted, and these changes are submitted as **Exhibit # 4** and were reviewed.

JB stated that there were two registered speakers.

JB called Dylan Ferreira of the Division of Fish and Wildlife who submitted Exhibit #4 on behalf of the Division and read the suggested changes aloud.

JB then called Mr. Jack Peters. Mr. Peters provided testimony regarding waterfowl hunting restrictions on Prudence Island that appear in the Waterfowl Abstract but not in regulation or law. Mr. Peters ask that this language and perceived restrictions be removed as to allow jump and pass shooting of waterfowl on Prudence Island.

JB then addressed the public to see if there were any interested speakers at this time.

JB called on interested party forward who identified himself as Joseph Sullivan of Portsmouth, RI. Mr. Sullivan stated that he agreed with the previous speaker.

No one from the public requested to speak.

Exhibit # 1 is the "Affidavit of Posting" of the public notice of this hearing a public notice of this hearing was posted on the Secretary of State and DEM computer websites on July 23, 2015.

Exhibit # 2 is a copy Falconry draft regulations as posted on the DEM website on July 23, 2015.

Exhibit # 3 is a copy of the Waterfowl draft regulations as posted on the DEM website on July 23, 2015.

Exhibit # 4 is a written copy of the suggested changes read aloud and submitted by Dylan Ferreira on behalf of The Division.

Public hearing on the Waterfowl Rules and Regulations closed at 7:47pm.

Public Hearing is closed at 7:47 PM.

Transcribed by Joshua M. Beuth